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United States
Department of
Agriculture

**Forest
Service**

Intermountain
Region

A Briefing Guide #5

for Planning on the Targhee National Forest

GREETINGS: September, 1985

The Forest Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Targhee National Forest have been approved by the Regional Forester. We believe it provides a workable blueprint for the future management of the Forest, but recognize that the documents are large and complex.

For that reason, this Briefing Guide has been prepared to help both Forest managers and the public by providing a reference to the contents of the Plan and FEIS. It also contains information about where to find answers to specific questions about future management on the Targhee.

I believe you will find the Briefing Guide is a helpful reference as you review the Plan and EIS. The section on where to find answers to some of the more commonly asked questions about management of the Forest should be particularly useful.

Thanks for your participation in the planning process. If you have questions, please call me or Forest Planner Bob Williams at (208) 624-3151, or write me at:

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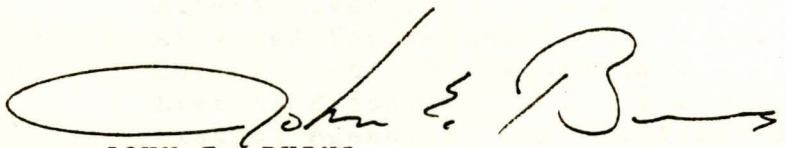

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Forest Supervisor

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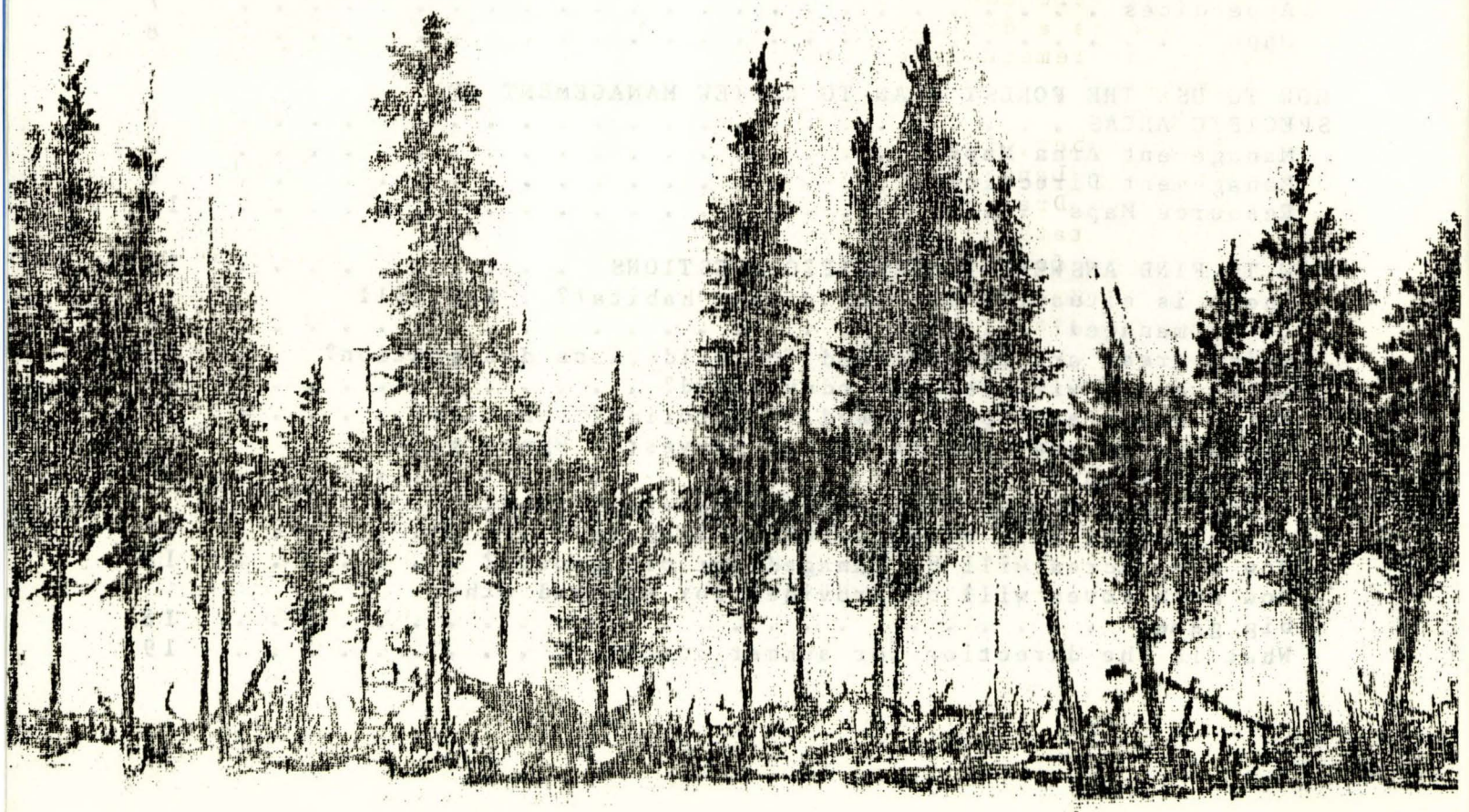


I. INTRODUCTION

The Land Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement accompanying this Briefing Guide are the culmination of a planning process that began in 1980. The Plan is in response to the National Forest Management Act of 1976 where Congress directed all national forests to prepare comprehensive long range plans to guide management.

A. Purpose of Briefing Guide #5 - This guide briefly describes the contents of the Plan and EIS, explains the purpose of each, and presents examples of how to find answers to specific questions about management of the Targhee National Forest.

B. Planning Schedule - In early 1980, the Forest began the planning process by holding a series of public meetings. From these meetings, twenty public issues were identified which served as a driving force for the remainder of the process.

In November, 1981, a Proposed Land Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement were released for public review. Following analysis of public comments, a final Plan and EIS were prepared. However, before they could be released, a precedent setting court decision ruled that the second Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE II) Environmental Impact Statement was inadequate. The Targhee then reevaluated the management decisions for roadless areas and issued a supplement to the Draft. The Supplement was published in December 1984, and public comments were accepted until April 1985.

The final Plan and EIS combines the draft Plan and EIS and the Roadless Area Supplement, and reflects changes resulting from public comment to both.

C. Purpose of the Land Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement - The purposes of the Land Management Plan are to:

1. Describe major issues raised by the public about management of the Targhee and show how these issues are resolved.

2. Present a summary of an analysis of the current management situation on the Forest.

3. Set forth direction for managing the Targhee National Forest.

4. Show how management will be monitored to ensure actions and effects are consistent with direction in the Plan.

D. The purposes of the Environmental Impact Statement are to:

1. Describe the existing environmental conditions of the Forest and the social and economic conditions

of the surrounding area.

2. Describe alternatives to the Forest Plan which were considered during the planning process.

3. Compare the environmental, social and economic effects of the alternatives.

II. FOREST PLAN STRUCTURE

The Forest Plan contains several sections, ranging from a description of current conditions to direction for specific areas of land. Following is an outline of the various sections of the Plan and a brief statement about what is contained in each:

A. Introduction - a summary of legislative background on forest planning and information about the purpose and structure of the plan.

B. Public Issues - a listing of public issues and how each is resolved by the Plan.

C. Analysis of the Management Situation:

1. An assessment of the Forest's capability to produce different levels of resources.

2. Description of current management.

3. An evaluation of external factors affecting management of the Forest.

4. Identification of opportunities and need for changes in current management.

D. Management Direction:

1. Implementation - a summary of how direction in the Plan will be implemented.

2. Forest Wide Direction - a listing of goals, standards, guidelines and outputs that apply to the entire Forest.

3. Management Area Direction - a listing of projects, standards and guidelines for specific areas of land (management areas).

E. Monitoring - monitoring activities that are required to ensure outputs in the plan are being met and standards and guidelines are being followed.

F. List of Preparers - a listing of the names and qualifications of the interdisciplinary team that prepared the Plan.

G. References - a listing of references used in preparation of the Plan.

H. Appendicies - several appendicies are included, some contain amplification of management direction, others are simply an explanation of terms used in the Plan.

1. Appendix A, Maintenance Classes - a description of different levels of facility maintenance.

2. Appendix B, Recreation Opportunity Spectrum Categories (ROS) - description of the various ROS categories.

3. Appendix C, Trail Maintenance Levels - description of the different levels of trail maintenance.

4. Appendix D, Stream Order and Stream Channel Stability Rating - description of methodology used to classify streams and to rate their stability.

5. Appendix E, Riparian Management Direction - detailed direction for the management of riparian areas.

6. Appendix F, Criteria for River Designation - the criteria used to assess the eligibility of rivers for classification under The Wild and Scenic River Act.

7. Appendix G, Coal Leasing Unsuitability Criteria - criteria used to determine lands unsuitable for coal leasing, and results of applying the criteria to areas where coal deposits occur.

8. Appendix H, Administrative Site

Inventory and Status - a listing of Forest administrative sites and their status.

9. Appendix I, Fire Management Area Prescription Guidelines - guidelines for when some fires may be allowed to burn.

10. Appendix K, Standard and Special Stipulations for Leasing - full text of stipulations that will be a condition of mineral leases.

11. Appendix L, Forest Range Environmental Study (FRES) Management Strategies - definitions of the different strategies for range management.

12. Appendix M, Aspen Management Direction - guidelines for management of the Forest's aspen.

13. Appendix N, Targhee National Forest Seismograph Permitting Procedures - guidelines for granting permits for seismograph operations.

14. Appendix O, Minerals (Potential for Development) - degree of mineral potential in management areas and criteria for identifying potential.

15. Appendix P, Aggregate Sources - a listing of existing and planned sources of aggregate (gravel).

16. Appendix Q, Prescription for Old Growth Mixed Conifer Stands - guidelines for management of old growth stands of timber.

17. Appendix R, Precommercial Thinning Guidelines - guidelines for thinning immature (less than 25 years old) lodgepole pine stands.

18. Appendix S, Ten Year Timber Sale Action Plan - a listing of planned timber sales, their location, acres treated, estimated volume and miles of road for each year during the first decade of the Plan.

19. Appendix T, Soil Resource Inventory - a summary of soil inventory work to be completed or undertaken during the first decade of the Plan.

20. Appendix U, Stream Priority for Obtaining Instream Flow Values - a listing of rivers and streams on the Forest and the priority for determining instream flow requirements.

21. Appendix V, Record of Decision Island Park Geothermal Area - a copy of the Record of Decision for the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for geothermal leasing in the Island Park area; and a response by the Chief of the Forest Service to an appeal of the decision in the FEIS.

22. Appendix W, Glossary - a glossary of terms used in the Plan.

I. Maps - A separate map packet labeled Maps for the Land Management Plan is included as a part of the Plan. The following maps are in the packet:

1. Map #1, Potential and Existing Recreation Sites - location of existing developed recreation sites and areas reserved for possible future sites.

2. Map #2, Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) - display of the recreational experience for which specific areas will be managed.

3. Map #3, Visual Quality Objectives - display of the visual quality for which specific areas will be managed.

4. Map #4, Wildlife - elk summer concentration areas and calving areas and elk and deer winter range.

5. Map #5, Threatened and Endangered Species - situation 1, 2 and 3 grizzly bear habitat, bald eagle, pergrine falcon and trumpeter swan habitat.

6. Map #6, Livestock Grazing - location of cattle and sheep allotments and areas closed to grazing.

7. Map #7, Forest Land Unproductive and Unsuitable for Timber Production - areas of forested land that are unproductive or otherwise unsuitable for timber production.

8. Map #8, Timber Inventory Working Groups, Available, Capable and Suitable Forest Land - areas of forested lands that are suitable for timber production; also lands that are suitable but on which no timber harvest is planned because of objectives in the Plan.

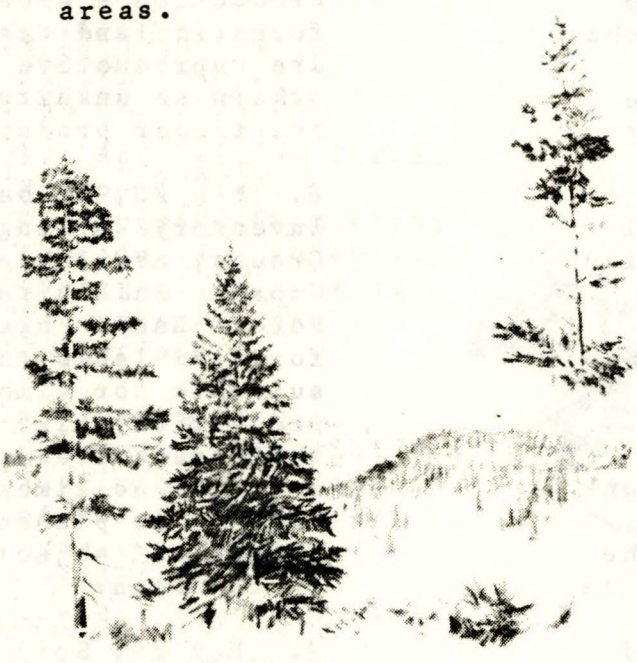
9. Map #9, Soil Stability - areas that have moderate or high mass movement potential and areas with landslide activity.

10. Map #10, Minerals and Energy - location of leases, lease applications, energy corridors and mines.

11. Map #11, Wilderness, Recommended Wilderness, Research Natural Areas - location of existing wilderness, areas recommended for wilderness, wilderness study areas and existing and potential research natural areas.

12. Map #12, Forest Travel Plan - areas open to motorized vehicles and areas closed or otherwise restricted.

13. Map #13A, 13B and 13C, Management Areas - location of management areas.



III. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS) STRUCTURE

The purpose of the EIS is to describe existing conditions on the Forest and surrounding area, describe the alternatives to the Forest Plan that were considered during the planning process and to evaluate the environmental effects of the alternatives. Following is an outline of the various sections of the EIS and a brief description of what is contained in each:

A. Record of Decision - a statement by the Regional Forester explaining his decision to approve the Forest Plan, and a brief summary of the issues, alternatives and rationale for his decision.

B. Summary - a summary of what is contained in the various sections of the EIS.

C. Purpose and Need for Action - a summary of the legislative requirements for the EIS, implications of the EIS and information about the structure of the EIS.

D. Alternatives - a discussion of alternatives to the Forest Plan that were considered during the

planning process.

E. Affected Environment - a description of the biological, economic and social environment that would be affected by the alternatives.

F. Environmental Consequences - a discussion of the impacts of each alternative on the affected environment.

G. List of Preparers - a listing of the names and qualifications of the people who prepared or made significant contributions to the EIS.

H. List of Agencies, Organizations and Persons Who Commented on the Draft and/or to Whom Copies of the Final EIS Were Sent.

I. Index - an index of major topics in the FEIS.

J. Appendicies - several appendicies are included which further explains terms and pertinent information:

1. Appendix A, Detailed Roadless Area Description and Comparison of Effects of Alternatives on Individual Areas - a description of the resources in roadless areas and the effects each alternative would have on the roadless area.

2. Appendix B, Oil, Gas and Mineral Special Stipulations and Degrees of Restriction - a summary of the methodology used to compare the restrictions of each alternative on mineral exploration.

3. Appendix C, Recreation Opportunity Spectrum Categories (ROS) - description of the various ROS categories.

4. Appendix D, Riparian Management Direction - detailed direction for management of riparian areas.

5. Appendix E, Fire Management Area Prescription Guidelines - guidelines for when some fires may be allowed to burn.

6. Appendix F, Cover in Elk Habitat and Evaluation of Sight Distance in Sapling Lodgepole Stands - an analysis of the amount of cover present on important elk habitat and projections of the amount available in future years. Also, an evaluation of hiding cover in sapling lodgepole pine stands.

7. Appendix G, Minerals (Potential for Development) - degree of mineral potential in management areas and criteria for identifying potential.

8. Appendix H, Analysis and Response to Public Comments During the Draft Stage - an analysis of the Forest's response to comments received to the draft plan, EIS and roadless area supplement.

9. Appendix I, Glossary - a glossary of terms used in the FEIS.

K. Maps - maps for the Final Environmental Impact Statement are included in the map packet as a part of the FEIS. The following maps are in the packet:

1. Map #1, Roadless Areas - designated wilderness areas, inventory of roadless areas and activities planned in roadless areas.

2. Map #4, Alternative C - recommended wilderness, areas to be managed as unroaded and undeveloped (ROS I, II or III) and areas available for a full range of resource activities.

3. Maps #2, 3 and #5-9 which display Alternatives A, B and D-H did not change since their publication in the Supplement. Therefore, they are not included in the map packet. Copies are available at the Targhee Forest Supervisor's Office.

IV. HOW TO USE THE FOREST PLAN TO REVIEW MANAGEMENT OF SPECIFIC AREAS

The Forest Plan contains a great deal of information about how the Forest will be managed, what activities occur and where. The purpose of this section is to explain how to use the plan to find answers about the management of specific areas of land.

A. Management Area Maps - included in the map packet for the Land Management Plan are three maps (Map #13A, 13B and 13C) which show boundaries for the 22 different management areas.

The first step in determining what is planned for a specific area is to consult the appropriate management area map and identify the management area.

B. Management Direction - this chapter of the Plan (Chapter IV) contains two sections - Forest Wide Management Direction and Management Area Direction.

The standards and guidelines in the forest-wide direction section apply to all management areas and outputs represent the total for the entire Forest. Thus, when determining how an area will be managed, it's important to review the

forest-wide direction, particularly those sections on resources about which you may be concerned, e.g., minerals, wildlife, recreation, etc. However, when reviewing the forest-wide direction, bear in mind that standards and guidelines for management areas amplify and in some cases supercede the forest-wide direction. For example, forest-wide direction specifies that 40 acres is the maximum size clearcut in lodgepole pine; however, in some management areas the standard is larger to provide for more rapid reforestation.

Included in the Management Direction Chapter is a separate section for each management area. Where applicable, the following information is provided for each area:

1. A brief description of the area including a map showing the general location (consult Maps 13A-C for exact boundaries), name, size and a brief description of resources and uses.

2. A description of the desired future conditions after the first decade.

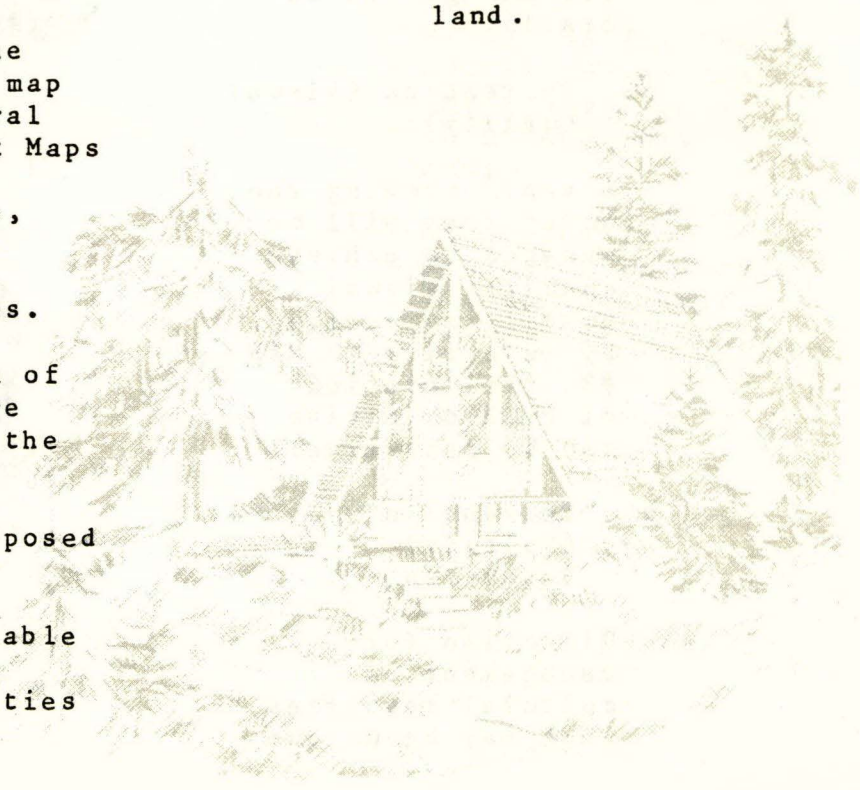
3. Timing of Proposed and Probable Practices. The purpose of this table is to show what management activities are planned and give an estimate of when they will occur. Thus, by reviewing this table one can tell, for example, how many acres of wildlife habitat improvement are planned and when it will occur.

4. The remainder of the section presents specific direction for each resource in the management area. If applicable, the following direction is presented:

a. Recreation (Developed):

- The level of management of developed campgrounds.

- Direction for summer homes and other private recreational facilities located on National Forest land.



- A schedule for future construction of developed recreation facilities.

b. Recreation (Dispersed):

- A table showing the acres that will be managed for each Recreation opportunity spectrum category (ROS). By referring to Map #2, the location of each category can be determined.

- Restrictions on motorized vehicle use in each ROS category. By referring to Map #12, the location of restrictions can be determined.

- Special direction for management of trails.

c. Recreation (Visual Quality):

- A table showing the acres that will be managed to achieve specific visual quality objective. By referring to Map #3, the location of each objective can be determined.

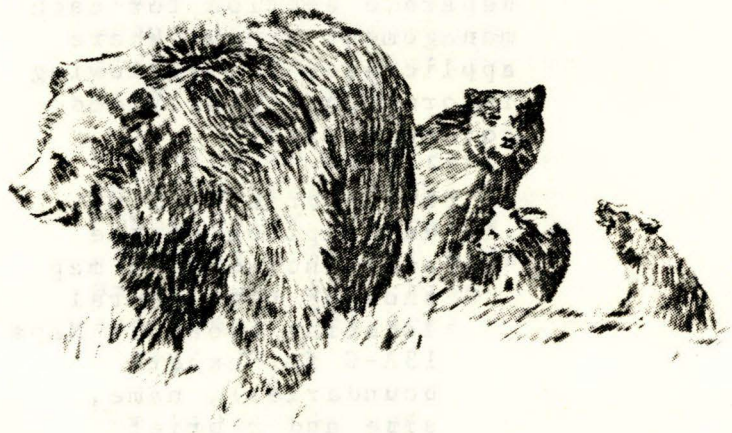
d. Recreation (Cultural Resources):

- Direction for management of cultural resources that may be unique.

e. Wildlife:

- Current population of big game and population objectives at the end of the first decade.

- The amount of cover and objectives to be achieved at the end of the first decade on important big game habitat. By referring to Map #4, the location of the habitat can be seen.



- Regulations on motorized vehicles to prevent adverse effects on wildlife or fish habitat (Map #12).

- Direction for management of any special wildlife or fish habitat.

- A table showing the amount of mixed fir species in a mature condition class and the amount that will remain at the end of the first decade. The amount (percentage) programmed in the long-term computer growth (yield) projections is also shown.

f. Range:

- A listing of all grazing allotments, the existing and proposed level of management, current and planned level of grazing, date of the last allotment management plan and date of next scheduled update, date of last range analysis and schedule for update. By referring to Map #6, the location of each allotment can be determined.

- Acres in various condition classes (excellent, good, fair, poor or very poor) for each allotment.

- Area closed to livestock grazing. Map #6 shows areas closed to grazing.

- Direction for the use of forage that may be available on a temporary basis.

- Direction for provision of forage for recreational livestock.

g. Timber:

- Acres planned for harvest and salvage; outputs for different species and products i.e. Douglas-fir sawtimber, lodgepole pine sawtimber and lodgepole for firewood or other products; acres to be reforested, acres of timber stand improvement (TSI) and acres of silvicultural examination to be conducted.

- Maximum size clearcuts and minimum width of leave strips allowed in lodgepole pine stands.

- Maximum size of shelterwood seed cuts in Douglas-fir.

- Direction to protect newly reforested areas.

h. Water and Soil:

- Acres of riparian area that will be managed according to riparian guidelines. Refer to Appendix E for specific direction.

- Identification of watershed improvement projects.

i. Minerals

- A table showing acres open to leasing, acres not available for leasing, acres presently leased and acreage for which lease applications are pending.

- Special stipulations which will be attached to leases under certain specified conditions.

- Acres of mining claims.

- Areas that will be recommended for withdrawal from mineral entry.

j. Lands:

- Areas of National Forest land that are available for exchange or disposal.

- Areas of private or other agency owned land that the Forest Service would be interested in obtaining on "a willing seller" basis either through purchase or exchange.

- Direction for privately owned facilities, other than recreational, located on the Forest, e.g. power lines, irrigation dams and canals, electronic sites, etc.

- Identification of, and direction for utility corridors (refer to Map #10 for location).

- Identification of areas where land line (property boundary) location work is needed.

k. Facilities

- Identification of miles of existing roads that need to be obliterated to protect water quality, wildlife, soil stability or to enhance vegetative productivity. The number of structures (gates, water bars, etc.) needed to close existing roads are also shown.

- Special direction for reconstruction of roads.

- Direction for Forest Service facilities such as administrative and electronic sites.

l. Protection:

- Identification of areas where normal fire suppression policies may be modified.

- High value areas requiring immediate fire suppression.

C. Resource Maps - Several maps in the map packet for the Land Management Plan display the results of management direction and show where certain activities may or may not occur.

1. Map #1 displays existing developed recreation sites and potential future sites. The direction for existing sites is obvious. Potential future sites will be managed to retain their potential. For example, timber harvest would not occur on a potential campground or ski area, or would be designed to be compatible with the potential use.

2. Map #2 displays the recreation opportunity spectrum categories. Each category has implications for management (refer also to

Appendix B). For example, no timber harvest or road construction is planned in ROS Categories I, II or III. Roads constructed for oil and gas exploration within those categories must be obliterated.

3. Map #3, each visual quality objective displayed on this map has implications for management because activities must be compatible with the applicable visual quality objective. For example, in areas designated for a visual quality objective of retention, visual impacts of activities should not be evident after one year. Forest-wide management direction gives detailed guidelines for activities within each visual quality objective.

4. Map #4, the wildlife concentration areas shown on this map will receive special management consideration. Amount of cover in each area has been calculated, and the expected amount of cover that will exist at the end of the first decade has been identified in the management area direction section. This means that the management program specified is not expected to result in the specified increase or decrease in vegetative cover.

5. Map #5, habitat for threatened and endangered species will receive special management consideration. For example, the area identified as situation 1 grizzly bear habitat will be managed in conformance with The Greater Yellowstone Guidelines for Grizzly Bear Habitat. The forest-wide and applicable management area direction sections also contain specific guidelines for management of habitat of threatened and endangered species.

6. Map #6, livestock grazing allotments are those areas where livestock grazing is authorized. Areas

that are closed to livestock grazing are also shown. Detailed information about each allotment is contained in the management area direction section.

7. Map #7 displays forested land that are unproductive or otherwise unsuitable for timber production. This means that these lands are not available for timber harvest and are not included in the timber "base" on which allowable cut is calculated.

8. Map #8 is the inventory of available, capable, and suitable forest land. These areas are available for timber harvest and are used to calculate long-term sustained yield of timber unless otherwise noted on the map. For example, in Management Area 1, Diamond Peak, there are mixed conifer stands which could be harvested, however, the Plan designates these areas as unsuitable because they would be difficult to reforest.

9. Map #9, areas where soils are unstable or where landslides are present will receive special management consideration when earth disturbing activities are involved.

10. Map #10, shows areas where mineral activity is presently occurring and where future activity is likely. The management area direction section contains specific direction for leasing and exploration in these areas.

11. Map #11, each of the wilderness and wilderness study areas are designated as a separate management area. The management area direction section of the Plan contains specific direction for their management. Direction for potential research natural areas is in the forest-wide management direction section. In all cases, management activities will be tailored to maintain the existing character of the areas until their final disposition is determined.

12. Map #12 displays those areas on the forest that are open to motorized vehicle travel and areas where restrictions apply.

13. Maps 13A-C define the boundaries of each management area. Each area will be managed somewhat differently to accomodate its unique resource needs.

V. HOW TO FIND ANSWERS TO SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

The public and land managers often have specific questions about how certain resources will be managed. This section presents a step-by-step process of how to find the answers to some of the more commonly asked questions about management on the Targhee.

A. Where is situation 1 grizzly bear habitat? How will it be managed?

1. Map #5 displays situation 1 habitat for grizzly bear.

2. The forest-wide direction section of the Plan gives general guidelines for management of grizzly bear habitat.

3. Each management area that contains situation 1 habitat also provides direction specific to that area.

a. Compare Maps #13A-C with Map #5 to determine which management areas contain situation 1 habitat (areas 6, 7, 12, 13 and 14).

b. Refer to the applicable management area direction section of the Plan.

B. Which areas are recommended for wilderness designation? Map #11 and Map #4 (FEIS) displays

areas recommended for wilderness.

C. Which areas will remain undeveloped?

1. Areas designated in ROS Categories I, II or III on Map #2 will remain unroaded and undeveloped except for possible exploration on valid mineral claims or oil and gas leases. Map #4 (EIS) also displays areas to be managed as unroaded and undeveloped.

2. Other areas of the Forest are available for developmental activities when compatible with other resources and management direction Map #1 (EIS) displays where activities will occur during the first decade.

D. Which areas are open/closed to motorized vehicles? Map #12 is a travel map for the Forest and displays areas open to motorized vehicles and areas where restrictions apply.

E. Which areas are open to timber harvest? Where will harvest occur?

1. Areas designated as available, capable or suitable on Map #8 and which are located in ROS Categories IV or V (Map #2) and designated as available for a full range of resource activities (Map #4 EIS) are generally available for timber harvest. However, the amount that can be harvested is restricted by needs of other resources e.g. cover for elk.

2. Each management area contains a table, if applicable, showing the number of acres where timber harvest will occur and the estimated volume that will be produced. A summary of the total for the Forest is displayed in the forest-wide direction section.

3. Appendix S to the Plan is a ten year timber sale action plan showing the location of timber sales during the first decade.

F. Which areas are open to mineral leasing? What stipulations will be attached to leases?

1. The management area direction section for each management area contains a table showing the number of acres available for lease and acres that are not available. Where acres are designated as not available, a description is also included. The location can be determined by referring to the appropriate map, e.g., Map #1 for potential recreation sites that are not available for lease.

2. Each lease will normally contain stipulations. The stipulations to be recommended are shown for each management area. This information is displayed in the table entitled Recommended Special Stipulations as a Condition of Mineral Leases (Recommended to Bureau of Land Management). For example, in ROS Category I, the following stipulations will be recommended:

a. Stipulation #10 - visual painting or camouflage.

b. Stipulation #13 - no surface disturbance, exploration, drilling...

c. Stipulation #14 - controlled or limited surface use.

d. Stipulation #15 - activity coordination.

The full text of each stipulation is in Appendix K to the Plan. Map #2 shows areas designated as ROS I.

3. Other environmental conditions and applicable leases are a part of the table. In most cases, by consulting the applicable management area maps (Maps #13A-C) and resource map (#1-11) the stipulations that would be recommended for leases on a particular site can be determined.

G. How many acres will be managed for old growth?

1. A part of the management area direction section in each management area is a table for old growth management. This table shows the acres of mixed fir species that are presently in a mature condition class and providing old growth habitat. The table also shows the minimum acreage that will remain in a mature condition class at the end of the decade. The amount of mixed fir species that will be identified and mapped for long-term old growth management as reflected in the growth and yield computer model is also shown.

2. Appendix Q contains specific and detailed direction for managing those stands designated for old growth management

H. How much cover will be provided for elk and other big game?

1. Each management area contains a table showing the amount of cover that exists in the management area and in areas that are important big game (primarily elk) habitat. The table also shows the amount of cover that will be available at the end of the first decade. In some cases, an increase is expected, and in some cases a decrease.

2. Maps #13A-C displays management area boundaries. Map #4 displays elk concentration areas corresponding to those in the management area section of the Plan.

I. What is the direction for summer homes?

1. Determine which management area the summer homes are located by referring to Maps #13A-C.

2. Where applicable, each management area contains:

a. A listing of each summer home area.

b. Expiration date of permits.

c. Direction for the future of the permits.

d. Basis for the direction.

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